AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21 (canceled).

22. (new): A polymerizable composition comprising a polymerizable monomer composition comprising a compound (A) denoted by Formula (1) shown below and a compound (B) denoted by Formula (2) shown below:

Formula (1) Formula (2)

where X^1 and X^2 respectively denote hydrogen (H) or deuterium (D) and two X^1s and two X^2s may be identical or different each other; Y^1 and Y^2 respectively denote H, D, CH_3, CD_3 or fluorine (F); R^1 is a branched C3-8 alkyl group; R^2 is a C1-7 fluoroalkyl group substituted with 1 to 15 fluorine atoms; and the compound (A) to the compound (B) mole ratio is not less than 1/100 and less than 4/1; and

a polymerization initiator capable of initiating polymerization of the polymerizable monomer composition.

23. (new): The composition of claim 22 further comprising a chain transfer agent.

24. (new): The composition of claim 22 further comprising a refractive index adjuster having a different refractive index from that of the polymerizable monomer composition.

25. (new): A process for preparing an optical member comprising polymerizing a composition of claim 22 to form a region having a distributed refractive index.

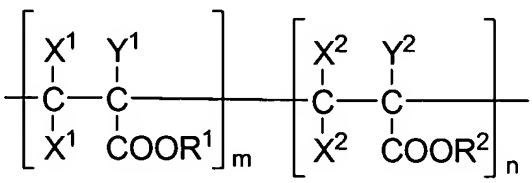
26. (new): The process of claim 25 wherein the polymerization is carried out according to an interfacial-gel polymerization.

27. (new): An optical member prepared by a process of claim 25.

28. (new): An optical member comprising a core region having a distributed refractive index, which is prepared by polymerization of a composition of claim 22 and a clad region cladding the core region.

29. (new): An optical member essentially formed of a copolymer denoted by Formula (X):

Formula (X)



where X^1 and X^2 respectively denote hydrogen (H) or deuterium (D) and two X^1s and two X^2s may be identical or different each other; Y^1 and Y^2 respectively denote H, D, CH_3, CD_3 or fluorine (F); R^1 is a branched C3-8 alkyl group; R^2 is a C1-7 fluoroalkyl group substituted with 1 to 15 fluorine atoms; m and n respectively denote a mole ratio of a repeating unit provided that m/n is not less than 1/100 and less than 4/1.

30. (new): The optical member of claim 29 wherein the copolymer has a weight-average molecular weight within a range from 10,000 to 1,000,000.

31. (new): The optical member of claim 29 comprising a region comprising a matrix formed of the copolymer and a compound contained in the matrix wherein the region has a concentration distribution of the compound, thereby having the distribution in the refractive index.

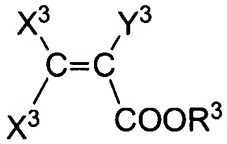
32 (new): An optical fiber prepared by drawing an optical member of claim 27.

33. (new): An optical fiber prepared by drawing an optical member of claim 28.

34. (new): An optical fiber prepared by drawing an optical member of claim 29.

35. (new): A process for preparing an optical member comprising polymerizing a polymerizable composition comprising a polymerizable monomer composition comprising a compound denoted by Formula (3):

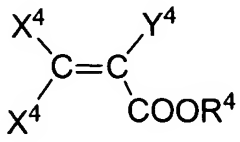
Formula (3)



where X^3 denotes hydrogen (H) or deuterium (D) and two X^3s may be identical or different each other; Y^3 is H, D, CH_3 or CD_3; and R^3 is a C7-20 alicyclic hydrocarbon group; a polymerization initiator for initiating the polymerizable monomer composition; and a compound having a different refractive index from that of the polymerizable monomer composition, in a hollow vessel, to form a polymer toward a center from an inner surface of the vessel.

36. (new): The process of claim 35, wherein the polymerizable monomer composition further comprises a compound denoted by Formula (4):

Formula (4)

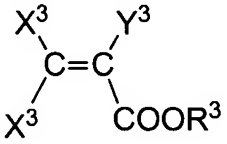


where X^4 is H or D and two X^4s may be identical or different each other; Y^4 is H, D, CH_3 or CD_3; and R^4 is a C1-7 fluoroalkyl group substituted with 1 to 15 fluorine atoms.

37. (new): The process of claim 33, wherein the polymerization of the polymerizable composition is carried out according to an interfacial-gel polymerization.

38. (new): A process for preparing an optical member comprising polymerizing a polymerizable composition comprising a polymerizable monomer composition comprising a compound denoted by Formula (3):

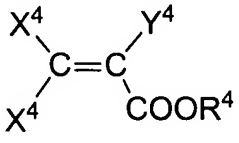
Formula (3)



where X^3 denotes hydrogen (H) or deuterium (D) and two X^3s may be identical or different each other; Y^3 is H, D, CH_3 or CD_3; and R^3 is a C7-20 alicyclic hydrocarbon group; a polymerization initiator for initiating the polymerizable monomer composition; and a compound having a different refractive index from that of the polymerizable monomer composition, to form a region having a distributed refractive index.

39. (new): The process of claim 38, wherein the polymerizable monomer composition further comprises a compound denoted by Formula (4):

Formula (4)



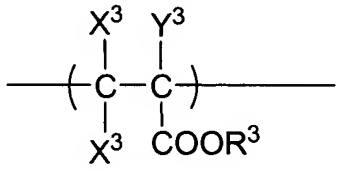
where X^4 is H or D and two X^4s may be identical or different each other; Y^4 is H, D, CH_3 or CD_3; and R^4 is a C1-7 fluoroalkyl group substituted with 1 to 15 fluorine atoms.

40. (new): An optical member prepared by a process of claim 35.

41. (new): An optical member prepared by a process of claim 38.

42. (new): An optical member comprising a region having a distributed refractive index which is essentially formed of a polymer having a molecular weight from 10,000 to 1,000,000 and comprising a repeating unit denoted by Formula (X-1):

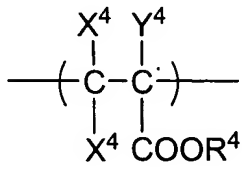
Formula (X-1)



where X^3 denotes hydrogen (H) or deuterium (D) and two X^3s may be identical or different each other; Y^3 is H, D, CH_3 or CD_3; and R^3 is a C7-20 alicyclic hydrocarbon group.

43. (new): The optical member of claim 42 wherein the polymer further comprises a repeating unit denoted by Formula (X-2):

Formula (X-2)



where X^4 is H or D and two X^4s may be identical or different each other; Y^4 is H, D, CH_3 or CD_3; and R^4 is a C1-7 fluoroalkyl group substituted with 1 to 15 fluorine atoms.

44. (new): The optical member of claim 42 comprising a region comprising a matrix formed of the polymer and a compound contained in the matrix wherein the region has a concentration distribution of the compound, thereby having the distribution in the refractive index.

45. (new): An optical fiber prepared by drawing an optical member of 40.

46. (new): An optical fiber prepared by drawing an optical member of 41.

47. (new): An optical fiber prepared by drawing an optical member of 42.